

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SY-04 IO-14 SAB-01 DRC-01

/115 W

----- 086000

R 301245Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5775

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJECT: WEST BANK REACTION TO SECURITY MEASURES

REF: JERUSALEM 1060 AND 1069

1. SUMMARY. CONGEN SURVEY OF WEST BANK REACTION TO STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES INDICATES WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT THAT APPEARS TO BE INTENSIFYING AS THEIR EFFECT GRADUALLY SPREADS. MEASURES TOUCH EVERY WEST BANK RESIDENT TRAVELLING TO JERUSALEM OR "GREENLINE ISRAEL". IF PROLONGED, THEY LIKELY TO HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON WEST BANK ECONOMY AS WORKERS AND MERCHANTS REFUSE TO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL. MEASURES (AND INCIDENTS WHICH LED TO THEM) HAVE ALLEGEDLY CREATED HEIGHTENED POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS ON BROADER SCALE WITHIN WEST BANK POPULATION. END SUMMARY.

2. AS ISRAELI MILITARY CONTINUES TO ENFORCE CURFEWS, ROADBLOCKS, VEHICLE INSPECTIONS, BODY SEARCHES, AND IDENTITY CHECKS OF ALL ARABS ENTERING JERUSALEM, BITTERNESS TOWARDS AUTHORITIES

INTENSIFIES. WE HAVE HEARD THAT 10:00 P. M. TO 3:00 A.M. CURFEW  
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ALSO BEING ENFORCED IN NABLUS; CITIZENS ARE SAID TO BE PROHIBITED

FROM ENTERING TOWN DURING EFFECTIVE HOURS. TRAVEL BETWEEN WB TOWNS IS ALSO SAID TO BE RESTRICTED DURING CURFEW PERIOD. (WE HAVE THIS FROM RESIDENTS OF AREAS IN QUESTION.)

3. WEST BANK RESIDENTS HAVE REACTED PARTICULARLY AGAINST ROAD-BLOCK DELAYS ON ROUTE FROM HEBRON AREA SOUTH OF BETHLEHEM, WHICH INVOLVES CHECKS AT ENTRANCES TO BOTH BETHLEHEM AND JERUSALEM. TRAFFIC DELAYS VARY FROM 15 MINUTES TO SEVERAL HOURS. SEARCHES ARE APPARENTLY CARRIED SO FAR AS REMOVAL OF VEHICLES' SEATS AND TIRES. ACCORDING TO MAYOR FREIJ OF BETHLEHEM THE DELAYS ARE DISCOURAGING BETHLEHEMITES FROM TRAVELLING TO JERUSALEM. MAYOR SAID ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF MERCHANTS ARE REFUSING TO MAKE TRIPS BECAUSE OF HUMILIATION CAUSED BY SEARCHES. MAYOR CLAIMS THAT CAR IN WHICH HE AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL RECENTLY TRAVELLED TO JERUSALEM WAS SPAT UPON BY ISRAELIS IN CITY.

4. MAYOR FREIJ ALSO ALLEGED THAT THE SECURITY MEASURES AND PRESENT ISRAELI MOOD OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS LOCAL ARABS RESULTING FROM MAA'LOT INCIDENT HAVE KEPT MANY WORKERS AWAY FROM THEIR JOBS INSIDE ISRAEL. MAYOR OBSERVED THAT THERE IS HEIGHTENED POLITICAL INTEREST AMONG POPULATION BECAUSE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL. FREIJ SAID PEOPLE VIEW SECURITY MEASURES AS SIGN OF DESPERATION AS ISRAELIS ATTEMPT TO STOP FEDAYEEN. FREIJ EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT WHAT HE CALLED "POLITICALIZATION" OF LOCAL RESIDENTS. HE DESCRIBED MOOD OF WEST BANK RESIDENTS AS AMBIGUOUS. THEY ARE NOW UNEASY ABOUT POSSIBLE RETALIATION BY ISRAELIS AGAINST ARABS, BUT ALSO MORE EMBITTERED AND MORE UNIFIED AS ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES TIGHTEN SECURITY MEASURES. RECENTLY RETURNED U.S. CULTURAL EXCHANGE GRANTEE DESCRIBED MEASURES AS WORST HE HAS WITNESSED IN SIX YEARS OF OCCUPATION.

5. COMMENT: MYTH OF ISRAELI INVINCIBILITY, ORIGINALLY CRACKED DURING OCTOBER WAR, DOES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN WEAKENED EVEN FURTHER BY ENFORCEMENT OF PRESENT SECURITY MEASURES. NEVERTHELESS, MOOD OF WEST BANK RESIDENTS IS ALSO ONE OF FEAR OF HARSHER MEASURES AND BODILY HARM FROM ARMED AND ANGRY ISRAELI PUBLIC IF MORE INCIDENTS SUCH AS MAA'LOT TAKE PLACE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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